

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please make the following changes at the indicated locations in the specification:

Page 3, lines 5 to 7, please make the following changes in the paragraph between these lines:

The power ~~energy~~-density introduced into the surface is approximately 2-4 W/mm<sup>2</sup>, in particular approximately 3 W/mm<sup>2</sup>. The effective exposure time is 0.1 to 5 s, and preferably 0.5 to 3 s.

Page 3, lines 15 to 19, please make the following changes in the paragraph between these lines:

Preferably, the surface is treated using a laser beam with a scan ~~feed~~-rate of 1-10 mm/s, while the laser beam on the surface has a diameter of 2-5 mm. As a result, power ~~energy~~-densities in the range of 2-4 W/mm<sup>2</sup> are produced, which results in a closed, vitreous layer on the surface of the refractory material, without any material having been removed.